

Amendments have been made to the claims to remove the multiple dependencies in order to conform with U.S. practice. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner, US Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

On February 23, 2001  
(Date of Deposit)

Rachel Piscitelli  
Name and Reg. No. of Attorney

Rachel Piscitelli  
Signature

February 23, 2001  
Date of Signature  
Date: February 23, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

Jiro Nagaoka et al.

By

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